

REMARKS

The Office Action indicated that Claims 3-10, 12 and 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of Claim 3, and it is believed that Claims 2 and 4-13 are now allowable.

Claim 15 represents the indicated allowed subject matter of dependent Claim 12, combined with independent Claim 1, and it is believed that Claim 15 is also allowable.

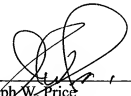
Finally, Claim 14 was carefully reviewed relative to *Morimoto et al.* (Japanese Laid-Open Application 01297534) and did not teach the novel aspects of dependent Claim 3. Accordingly, Claim 14 has now been amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of Claim 3, and it is believed that Claim 14 is also allowable.

Since only allowable subject matter is now set forth in the claims, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the below listed number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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